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U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/808,509
Response to OA dated November 1, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as their invention. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 1, 2007.

Independent Claim 1, as amended, is to a dial plate in an instrument panel of a vehicle, consisting of laminated patterns of electrodes and light emitting elements formed on a substrate of the dial plate for an instrument panel, by laminating electrodes and organic electroluminescent materials through ink jet printing. Each of the electrodes and the light emitting elements have a specific design corresponding to ink jet printing data.

Independent Claim 3, as amended, is to a method for producing a dial plate for an instrument panel of a vehicle using the steps of receiving ink jet printing data and forming laminated patterns on a substrate of the dial plate for an instrument panel by laminating electrodes and organic electroluminescent materials through ink jet printing, whereby the laminated patterns have a specific design corresponding to the ink jet printing data.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the Claims and the following remarks.

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The Office Action alleges that the specification, while being enabling for use of a substrate, first electrode, electroluminescent material and second electrode, does not reasonably provide enablement for an emitting layer printed directly on the first electrode, and a second electrode formed directly on the emitting layer without the use of an insulating or dielectric layer as argued. It is alleged that the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this rejection. There appears to be support in the specification for the present claims in FIG. 3D and at page 9, line 20 to page 10, line 21.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,769,292) in view of Krafcik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,465,951). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

The Office Action alleges that Tang et al. (FIG. 1) teaches a dial plate for use in an instrument panel of a vehicle, consisting of laminated patterns of light emitting elements (114, 116), the laminated patterns being formed on a substrate composed of a glass or a resin, by laminating electroluminescent materials through printing a first electrode (102), printed directly on the substrate,

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an emitting layer (106) printed directly on the first electrode, and a second electrode (104) formed directly on the emitting layer.

The Office Action further alleges that Krafcik et al. teaches a dial plate for use in an instrument panel of a vehicle, having a segment display area including indexes (84a-87a and 89a-94a), comprising a substrate (40), laminating electroluminescent materials (46) through printing a first electrode (44) printed directly on the substrate, and a second electrode (50), and having a specific design corresponding to external data (FIG 7).

The Office Action still further alleges that Tang et al. teaches a method for producing a dial plate comprising the steps of receiving external data, and forming laminated patterns on a substrate by laminating electroluminescent materials (114, 116) through printing, by printing a first electrode (102) directly on the substrate, an emitting layer (106) directly on the first electrode, and a second electrode (104) directly on the emitting layer, and that Krafcik et al. teaches a method for producing a dial plate including indexes (84a-87a and 89a-94a), comprising a substrate (40), laminating electroluminescent materials (46) through printing, a first electrode (44) printed directly on the substrate, and a second electrode (50) and having a specific design corresponding to external data.

In a "Response to Arguments" portion of the Office Action, the Examiner recites that, "Since the applicant does not address the use or application of an insulating or dielectric layer in the original specification, it is unclear as to how or if the device could operate without one."

It is respectfully submitted that the organic EL uses a very thin dielectric layer as an emitting layer. However, the insulating layer does not overlap with the emitting layer. In the inorganic EL,

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insulating layers sandwich the emitting layer.

It appears as though the Office Action is basing the operability concern on a number of related-art references cited for comments that the claimed arrangement is found to be operable in a less than desirable manner.

Claim 1 has been amended to include "laminating electrodes and organic electroluminescent materials through ink jet printing". Support for this amendment can be found on page 10, lines 2-8 and lines 14-20 of the specification of the instant application.

It is respectfully submitted that Tang uses a metal mask for forming a specific design, and Krafcik uses a knurled welding tool for forming a specific design. The present invention uses ink jet printing data and an ink jet printer for forming a specific design of the laminated patterns of the electrodes and the organic electroluminescent materials. In view of the amendments to Claims 1 and 3, and the above remarks, removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Claims 1 and 3, as amended, are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

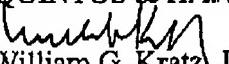
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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